



Nevada Department of **AGRICULTURE**

Don Henderson, Director

Quarterly Highlights Summer 2005

Administration

Nevada Employee Action and Timekeeping System (NEATS) rollout update: Measurement Standards is the latest Division to begin using NEATS to enter timesheets, and the department is on schedule to be fully deployed by December.

NDOA employees participated in the statewide "Rotunda Thunda" disaster emergency exercise staged in Las Vegas. Seven staff members worked ESF 11 at the Department of Emergency Management in Carson City. ESF 11 dealt with stray animals and supporting other stations.

Veterinary Science

Dr. Keith Forbes, Tom Smigel and Dave Walsh participated in the "Rotunda Thunda" disaster emergency exercise in Clark County. Dr. Forbes, in conjunction with Clark County Animal Control, Nevada Veterinary Medical Association, and USDA-APHIS, inserted microchips in animals so that they could be identified during an emergency. 760 animals were chipped in a 48 hour period of time. Additionally, this effort tested the capacity of Clark County's new Regional Mobile Emergency Animal Shelter.

A nationally acclaimed animated video on dog bites, "Bow Wow Ow", produced by Dr. Ron Anderson, is airing on Sunrise Children's Hospital closed circuit television station in Las Vegas. Dr. Anderson has received many requests for airing this award winning show all over the country since it was produced two years ago.

The Animal Disease and Food Safety Laboratory processed over 3400 samples sent in for West Nile Virus testing this summer. Positive totals are 113 mosquito pools, 68 birds, and 47 horses.

Plant Industry

Our Entomology Staff trapped for imported fire ants this summer to identify any presence of this insect in Northern and Southern Nevada. Fortunately, there were no positive finds in any of the 350 locations where we trapped. If you suspect the presence of imported fire ants, please call Jeff Knight at the Nevada Department of Agriculture in Reno, or contact the NDOA office nearest you. Imported fire ants need to be eradicated before unloading any shipments! This will prevent the entire nursery or work site from having to be quarantined and treated.

Some quick facts on the 2005 Mormon cricket and Grasshopper control programs:

- ➡ 495,500 acres were protected using Dimilin 2L spray according to the Reduced Area & Agent Treatment (every other swath) method.
- ➡ 142,210 acres were treated by ground application of carbaryl bait.
- ➡ Carbaryl bait give-away covered 202,480 acres (according to label directions, of course!).
- ➡ Reimbursement costs for pre-approved grasshopper and cricket treatments have totaled \$88,278 to date.

Did you know that grass seed is the largest source of weed seed in our State? That is why our Seed Lab is striving to change our Nevada State Seed Laws to get in line with the new Federal Seed Trade Act. These changes will enable us to know who is selling seed in our State, and the quality of the seed being sold. Furthermore, observation, sampling and testing seed lots will help prevent Nevada from becoming a target for unscrupulous seed growers who could dump inferior seed into our markets. Clean, weed free seed results in less weeds being spread State wide!

Samples collected from local nurseries, and tested in our Pathology Lab, yielded the first positive cases of daylily rust being transported into Nevada from California nursery stock growers. Several nurseries which had daylily rust on plants purchased from California growers were asked to destroy their daylily plants, and the growers were advised to stop shipping infected plants into Nevada.

The Weeds Working Group (WWG) has been working on the Strategic Plan and Weeds Management Plan for the Clark County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan. The major effort of the Weeds working group is the completion of the (WWG) Strategic Plan. It continues to be our #1 priority. The WWG identified an AD Hoc editing group consisting of up to ten members of the WWG representing the key agencies with the knowledge and expertise to expedite the writing and editing process and provide focused time and energy to complete a quality document in a timely manner.

The entire WWG Strategic Plan document has been drafted. A Vision statement has been finalized and the existing Mission statement has been verified. A Desired Future Condition statement is in the process of being drastically revised. Goals, objectives and strategies for the weeds management program have been identified and are in the process of being finalized.

Dr. Chris Mason, chemistry lab supervisor, has been appointed to the State-FIFRA Issues and Evaluation Group (SFIREG) Working Committee on Pesticide Operations & Management. His term of appointment lasts until July 2008. SFIREG is a network of state officials interested in Federal/State "co-regulation" of pesticides under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide & Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). It was established by the Association of American Pesticide Control Officials (AAPCO) with financial support from the U.S. EPA.

Wildlife Services

Wildlife Services assisted 377 persons or entities with technical assistance which involves providing information or equipment to cooperators so they can resolve problems themselves.

Wildlife Services routinely collects blood samples from species taken during control activities for monitoring the presence of plague of which 36 samples were processed this summer.

Cooperators reported \$49,540 in 334 occurrences of damage and WS specialists verified 46 occurrences of damage totaling \$12,915.

This summer, coyotes accounted for 54 damage incidences totaling \$9390 in losses mostly to livestock and poultry. 620 coyotes were taken with a variety of management methods to resolve these and other ongoing complaints.

Livestock Identification & Agricultural Enforcement

The total number of brand inspections this summer: 85,148

The total number of vehicles stopped by Ag Enforcement: 671

Warning Citations: 42

Court Citations: 15

Verbal Warnings: 61

Jim Connelley and Steve Grabski, Administrator-Measurement Standards, have been coordinating capitol improvement projects for the Elko branch office and the Agriculture headquarters building. The Elko project has purchased an existing building in Elko on Idaho St. and has been working with the public works board and the architect to remodel it for the veterinarian lab and agriculture offices. The headquarters building is in the construction document phase, where last biennium's planning documents will be used to make the actual construction documents.

Division of Measurement Standards

The Division has been in the process of purchasing replacement equipment such as trucks and equipment to improve service and reduce maintenance costs.

Bureau of Weights & Measures

The Bureau has stepped up the inspections for price verification and package checking. Price verification is a test of random products to ensure that the shelf and sale prices are correct at the cash register. Package inspection is a random test of net contents where the inspector verifies that the label contents and actual contents are the same for any pre-packaged product. Both these programs are un-funded consumer protection programs.

BWM Numbers:

Device Inspections, number checked, 10722, number of failures, 408.

Fuel Samples, number checked, 766, number of failures, 35.

Consumer Complaints, number checked, 159, number of failures, 13.

Other Inspections, number checked, 679, number of failures, 60.

Bureau of Petroleum Technology

The laboratory has been keeping pace with all drawn samples and verifying that the fuels meet American Society of Testing and Materials standards and State quality requirements. The primary failures have been at seasonal change over requirements for vapor pressure. These fuels must meet the clean air requirements of Clark, Washoe and the State standards. Vapor pressure plays a large role in the air quality.

Diesel fuel fails have primarily been in flash point. The flash point temperature is related to ignition timing that is directly connected to the clean combustion of the fuel. Engine life expectancy is affected by the ignition combustion timing, similar to pre-ignition in a gasoline engine.